

Appl. No. 09/972,368
Amdt. Dated 10/12/2005
Reply to Office Action of 09/12/2005

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on 09/12/2005. In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c); and claims 8-20, 22-33, 35-44, 46-49 were allowed. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 15-16 in this response. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2 and 4-7 without prejudice in this response. Claims 3, 21, 34 and 45 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Applicant has added no new claim. Accordingly, claims 8-20, 22-33, 35-44, 46-49 are now pending. Of the pending claims, claims 8, 17, 27, and 41 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I) Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,891,845 issued to Boock ("Boock"). [Office Action, page 2, section 3]. Applicant respectfully traverses.

In order to bring prosecution to a close in the present application on the allowed claims, Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-2 and 4-7 such that Applicant believes that this claim rejection is now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-7 under Boock.

While claims 15-16 could have also been rejected, Applicant has amended claims 15-16 to be dependent from allowed independent claim 8 so that claims 15-16 are also in condition for allowance.

While Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims, it reserves the right to file a continuation patent application to further prosecute the rejected claims.

II) Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 8-20, 22-33, 35-44, 46-49 are allowed. [Office Action, page 3, section 4]. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

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CONCLUSION

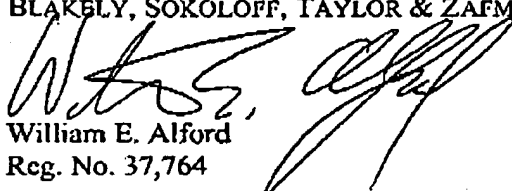
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case for the allowed claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 12, 2005


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 CFR §1.8 on: October 12, 2005 to Examiner Kevin Kim at (703) 872-9306.


Pat Sullivan

10/12/05

Date